

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 DHA-02

/064 W

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P R 021530Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7603

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV MILITARY REACTION TO PRESS REPORTS
ON TOTH CASE

1. WE WERE CONCERNED (EVEN BEFORE TITO'S WEEKEND INTERVIEW)
THAT YUGOSLAV PRESS CAMPAIGN STEMMING FROM REACTION TO U.S.
PRESS ACCOUNTS ON TOTH RELEASE MIGHT BE TRANSLATED BY YUGOSLAVS
INTO STRAINS IN MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS. THEREFORE
AMBASSADOR DIRECTED DATT/AIRA TO CALL ON DEFENSE SECRETARIAT
FOREIGN LIAISON SERVICE (FLS) ON MORNING JUL 29 AND EMPHASIZE OUR
DESIRE TO MAINTAIN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP EVENLY WITHOUT
IMBALANCES CAUSED BY CURRENT SPASM. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT
GOY DISPLEASURE COULD BE EXPRESSED BY CURTAILED YUGOSLAV
MILITARY ATTENDANCE AT RECEPTION AMBASSADOR WAS HOSTING
THAT EVENING FOR NEWLY-ARRIVED DATT/AIRA.

2. FLS SENIOR REP (COL. JOVIC) IMMEDIATELY GRASPED
SIGNIFICANCE OF DATT/AIRA'S REMARKS. HE INDICATED HE
WAS CONCERNED THAT U.S. MIGHT INTERPRET LOW ATTENDANCE AS
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. HE INSISTED THAT YUGOSLAV
ATTENDANCE WOULD BE CONDITIONED ONLY BY FACT THAT LARGE
NUMBER OF OFFICERS NOW ON LEAVE DURING VACATION SEASON.

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3. AT RECEPTION YUGOSLAV ATTENDANCE WAS NO LOWER THAN WOULD BE EXPECTED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. FIVE GENERAL OFFICERS ATTENDED, WITH YUGOSLAV CIVIL AVIATION AND YAF REPRESENTED. SENIOR YAF OFFICER WAS COS, LT. COL. GEN. SUSA. KELIC ATTENDED FOR FSFA NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL FOR CERTAIN, WE BELIEVE THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE GOTTEN POINT ON SEPARATION OF MILITARY FROM POLITICAL CONCERNS. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH YUGOSLAV MILITARY AND FOREIGN ATTACHE COUNTERPARTS, ALL THREE U.S. ATTACHES GAINED IMPRESSION THAT PRESS ATTACK HAS NOT YET AFFECTED MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. SWEITZER

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